

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION SINAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7190

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PORG, IS, SG
SUBJ: SHIMON PERES COMMENTS ON HIS TALKS WITH SENGHOR

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 6722

SUMMARY: SHIMON PERES TOLD EMBOFF THAT SENGHOR HAD
OFFERED TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH TOP PLO LEADER. HOW-
EVER, PERES EXPLAINED THAT SUCH MEETING WOULD BE COUNTER-
PRODUCTIVE SINCE THE EGYPTIANS HAD ALREADY INDICATED
READINESS TO LEAVE PLO OUT OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE DID PER-
SUADE SENGHOR TO INITIATE JOINTLY WITH BRANDT A
SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL OVERTURE TO SADAT TO PERSUADE
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THE EGYPTIANS TO RESUME DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS. THE EGYPTIAN
INVITATION TO THE ISRAELI LABOR PARTY REMAINED VALID, BUT
PERES WAS WAITING FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD LEND
MAXIMUM IMPACT TO SUCH A VISIT. END SUMMARY

1. LABOR PARTY CHAIRMAN SHIMON PERES TOLD EMBOFF ON
JUNE 4 THAT PRESIDENT SENGHOR HAD SOUGHT TO MAKE RECEP-

TION OF ISRAELI DELEGATION AS WARM AND PERSONAL AS POSSIBLE. HE KEPT REASSURING THE ISRAELI DELEGATES OF HIS PERSONAL SYMPATHY FOR ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND THAT HE WANTED TO BE HELPFUL IN FURTHERING THE ME PEACE PROCESS. PERES DESCRIBED SENGHOR AS GENERALLY WELL INFORMED ON ISRAELI AFFAIRS, BUT ADDED THAT THERE WERE "SOME LACUNAE IN HIS IGNORANCE (SIC)."

2. SENGHOR HAD RAISED HIS PET IDEA OF A JEWISH-PALESTINIAN CONFEDERATION AND OFFERED TO ARRANGE DISCREETLY A MEETING BETWEEN PERES AND "A TOP PLO LEADER." IN DECLINING PERES EXPLAINED THAT THE PROBLEMS OF THE PALESTINIANS AND OF THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE KEPT SEPARATE. RESUMPTION OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE. GIVEN THE CHARACTER OF THE PLO AND THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN ISRAEL, SUCH TALKS WOULD HAVE NO CHANCE OF PROMOTING THE PEACE EFFORT. THIS THE MORE, SINCE THE EGYPTIANS HAD ALREADY CONCEDED NOT TO INJECT THE PLO INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. SENGHOR THEN REPROACHED PERES FOR HAVING REMAINED TOO PASSIVE TOWARD THE BEGIN REGIME AND URGED HIM TO RALLY THE PEACE FORCES AND TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN PROMOTING A MORE FLEXIBLE AND ACCOMMODATING REALIGNMENT OF POLITICAL FORCES IN ISRAEL. PERES, IN TURN, EXPLAINED THAT AT PRESENT SUCH AN EFFORT COULD NOT SUCCEED. HOWEVER, HE PERSUADED SENGHOR TO UNDERTAKE JOINTLY WITH WILLY BRANDT AND OTHER LEADING CONFIDENTIAL

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SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL PERSONALITIES, INCLUDING SOME FROM THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES - ESPECIALLY THE JAMAICAN PM - TO MEET WITH SADAT AND PERSUADE HIM TO RESUME DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL. SENGHOR REPLIED THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS POSSIBILITY WITH BRANDT.

4. WITH REGARD TO AN ISRAELI LABOR PARTY DELEGATION VISITING EGYPT IN RESPONSE TO SADAT'S INVITATION, PERES SAID THAT FOR HIM TO GO NOW OR IN THE NEAR FUTURE WOULD HAVE LITTLE IMPACT ON THE PEACE MAKING PROCESS. INSTEAD HE PREFERRED TO WAIT UNTIL THERE WERE SOME NEW DEVELOPMENTS WHICH COULD LEND MAXIMUM IMPACT TO SUCH A VISIT. HE HAD BEEN ASURED FROM THE EGYPTIAN SIDE THAT THE INVITATION CONTINUED TO REMAIN VALID. HOWEVER, HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT BEGIN OR THE CABINET WOULD SOON COME UP WITH A HELPFUL REPLY TO THE QUESTIONS POSED BY THE U.S. BESIDES, IN ORDER TO MOVE THE PEACE PROCESS ALONG, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO ANSWER NOT TWO QUESTIONS, BUT MANY MORE.

5. REGARDING PRESS REPORTS THAT HE MAY BE GOING TO MOSCOW THIS YEAR, PERES SAID THAT THIS WAS IN CONNECTION WITH A PLANNED SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION WHICH WOULD GO

TO WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW TO DISCUSS DISARMAMENT. HOWEVER,
HE DOUBTED THAT AT THIS STAGE SUCH A VISIT WOULD HAVE MUCH
CHANCE OF SUCCESS.
LEWIS

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